

REMARKS

Claims 7 and 11-13 are currently pending in the present application after cancellation of claims 8-10. Reconsideration is respectfully requested based on the following.

Claims 7 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Nashif et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,754,123 ("Nashif"). In view of the amendment of claim 7 to incorporate the features of claims 8-10 as well as additional features, Applicants submit that the anticipation rejection of claim 7 and its dependent claim 13 has been overcome, since the Examiner implicitly acknowledges (in the obviousness rejection of claims 8-10) that the features of claims 8-10 are not anticipated by Nashif.

Claims 8-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Nashif, in view of Tohya et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,933,109 ("Tohya"). Claims 8-10 have been canceled, and claim 7 has been amended to incorporate the features previously recited in claims 8-10, as well as additional features. In view of the amendment to claim 7, Applicants will address amended claim 7 and its dependent claim 13 in connection with the obviousness rejection based on the combination of Nashif and Tohya.

Amended claim 7 recites, in relevant parts, "**a microwave radar sensor having a first detection range and a first angular detection zone in a first operating mode, and having a second detection range and a second angular detection zone in a second operating mode, wherein the first detection range is larger than the second detection range, and wherein the first angular detection zone is smaller than the second angular detection zone; and an ultra short-range sensor having a smaller detection range than the second detection range and a larger angular detection zone than the second angular detection zone, wherein the ultra short-range sensor is one of an optical sensor and a radar sensor.**" First, Nashif and Tohya simply do not teach a **microwave radar sensor** having the two different detection ranges and two different angular detection zones. Second, to the extent the Examiner cites Nashif as teaching the claimed feature of **an ultra short-range sensor**, Nashif clearly does not teach that the ultra short-range sensor is "**one of an optical sensor and a radar sensor.**"

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that Nashif and Tohya do not render independent claim 7 and its dependent claim 13 obvious.

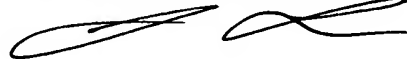
Claims 11-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Nashif and Tohya, and further in view of Takano et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,612,686 ("Takano"). Claims 11 and 12 ultimately depend on claim 7. As noted above, Nashif and Tohya do not render parent claim 7 obvious. In addition, the teachings of Takano do not remedy the deficiencies of Nashif and Tohya as applied against parent claim 7. Therefore, dependent claims 11 and 12 are allowable over the combination of Nashif, Tohya and Takano.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are allowable. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejections and objections be withdrawn. Prompt reconsideration and allowance of the present application are therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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